

Jefferson County

Jefferson County was created from Burke and Warren counties in 1796, becoming the twenty-third county. Its territory had been part of two headright counties: Richmond and Burke. The county was named for President Thomas Jefferson, the county seat, Louisville, for King Louis XVI of France.

George Galphin, who came from Armagh, Ireland, established a trading post in the 1750s near an Indian settlement known as "Old Town." Galphin developed great influence among the Creek Indians of this region. In 1785 the Creeks ceded to the State of Georgia the land between the Altamaha and the St. Mary's rivers, meeting at Galphinton, the trading post, to sign the treaty.

Louisville was the Georgia capital from 1796 until 1806, succeeding Savannah and Augusta. The present county courthouse is built on the site of the old state capitol, and many of the materials salvaged from the capitol were used in the courthouse which remains today one of the most distinguished governmental buildings in the state.

In front of the courthouse is a marker commemorating the burning of the Yazoo Fraud papers. What amounted to a gigantic land fraud was negotiated in 1795 wherein some thirty-five million acres of Georgia land was sold for a half-cent per acre. The act creating the land sale was rescinded in 1796.

Source: Foundations of Government - The Georgia Counties, Association County Commissioners of Georgia, 1976.

News In This County

Congressman Barrow Announces Upcoming Hospital Health Care Tour

February 15, 2007

Starting on Monday, February 19, Georgia Congressman John Barrow (D-Savannah) will kick off a four-day tour of ten area hospitals that play a vital role in serving the medical needs of Georgia's 12th Congressional District, with stops in Savannah, Statesboro, Claxton, Vidalia, Millen, Swainsboro, Sandersville, Milledgeville, Louisville, and Augusta.

Rep. John Barrow Announces Upcoming Rural Listening Tour

May 26, 2005

On

Wednesday, June 1st, Congressman John Barrow (D-GA) will launch a three day listening tour, visiting rural and agricultural communities across Georgia's 12th Congressional District. The tour will visit 9 counties - Taliaferro, Warren, Glascock, Jefferson, Burke, Jenkins, Bulloch, Screven, and Effingham County.

Barrow Applauds USDA Decision to Suspend FSA Office Closure Plan

October 19, 2005

Washington, DC -

Georgia Congressman John Barrow (12th District) today issued the following statement in response to the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) decision to set aside its "FSA Tomorrow" plan, a controversial proposal that would have closed and consolidated 665 Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices nationwide:

Congressman Barrow Announces Upcoming Veterans Town Hall Tour

February 14, 2006

Washington, DC -

12th District Georgia Congressman John Barrow (D-Savannah) wants to hear from veterans across the 12th District. Starting on Tuesday, February 21st, Rep. Barrow will launch a three-day Veterans Town Hall Tour with 8 public forums planned in Athens, Augusta, Warrenton, Louisville, Waynesboro, Sylvania, Savannah, and Statesboro.

Louisville native begins internship with Congressman John Barrow

February 1, 2005

Washington, DC

- Luke Moses, a native of Louisville, Georgia and a recent graduate of Jefferson County High School, this week accepted an internship in the office of 12th District Congressman John Barrow (D-GA). Luke becomes the first intern Barrow's office has hired since the Congressman took office early last month.

Three 12th District Fire Departments to Receive Over \$1.1 Million in Homeland Security Grants

November 1, 2005

Washington, DC -

12th District Congressman John Barrow (D-GA) announced today that the Screven County Fire Department, Avera Volunteer Fire Department, and Southside Communities Fire Protection, Inc., in Savannah have been awarded grants in the combined amount of \$1,101,218 from the United States Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFGP). The grants help provide for additional training and personal protective equipment.

Congressman John Barrow Announces Upcoming 2006 Rural Listening Tour

April 13, 2006

Savannah, GA -

12th District Georgia Congressman John Barrow (D-Savannah) today announced the schedule for his upcoming 2006 12th District Rural Listening Tour. Starting on Wednesday, April 19th, Barrow will launch his now annual three-day listening tour, visiting rural and agricultural communities across Georgia's 12th Congressional District. The tour will visit 8 counties - Taliaferro, Glascock, Jefferson, Burke, Jenkins, Bulloch, Screven, and Effingham.